

What is Claimed:

1. A method for remote distribution/installation of computer programs from a source data processing system to at least one target data processing system based on at least two distribution/installation modes, comprising the steps of:

checking if the at least one target data processing system is available;

performing the distribution/installation according to one of the at least two distribution/installation modes, if the at least one target data processing system is available;

monitoring if the distribution/installation is successful; and

switching the distribution/installation mode if the distribution/installation is not successful.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the computer programs are transferred as packages which are identified in a package list, the method comprising the further particular steps of:

pre-specifying attempt numbers for retrying a push mode distribution and a pull mode distribution;

retrieving a next package identified in the package list;

checking if the at least one target data processing system is available;

if the at least one target computer system is available then starting installation of the package on the target data processing system;

otherwise, if at least one push mode attempt is left, resuming and rescheduling a next push mode distribution and, if no push mode attempt is left, but at least one pull mode attempt is left, resuming and rescheduling a next pull mode distribution.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein if the target data processing system is not available after several retries, performing the further particular steps of:

if the number of push retries is greater than 0, moving

a distribution/installation request into a hold queue and scheduling re-insertion of the request into a request queue;

5 if the number of push retries is equal 0 and the number of pull retries is greater than 0, moving the request into a pull queue and restarting when the target computer system logs in; and

10 if the number of push retries is equal 0 and the number of pull retries is equal 0, moving the request into an abort queue.

- 15 4. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, further comprising queuing a distribution/installation request in a request queue and setting the distribution/installation request into an active queue when a pre-specified time is exceeded.
5. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, further comprising detecting an active queue overload and checking if a currently selected target data processing system is already active.
- 20 6. A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions for

performing a method according to any of claims 1 to 3
when said program is run on said computer.

5 7. A computer program product stored on a computer usable
medium, comprising computer readable program means for
causing a computer to perform a method according to any
of claims 1 to 3 when said program is run on said
computer.

10 8. A software distribution system for remote
distribution/installation of computer programs from a
source data processing system to at least one target
data processing system based on at least two
distribution/installation modes, comprising:

15 means for checking the availability of the at least one
target data processing system and for performing the
distribution/installation dependent on the results of
the availability checking;

means for monitoring the distribution/installation
process; and

20 means for switching the distribution/installation mode,
dependent on the results of the monitoring.

9. A software distribution system for remote distribution/installation of computer programs from a source data processing system to at least one target data processing system based on at least two distribution/installation modes, wherein the computer programs are transferred as packages which are identified in a package list, the system comprising a queue manager which includes a request queue and an active queue for handling the remote distribution.
10. The system according to claim 9, where the queue manager comprises
- means for checking if a pre-specified time is exceeded and
- means for checking if the active queue is overloaded and, if not, for setting the request into the active queue.
11. The system according to claim 9 or 10, where the queue manager comprises means for checking if a current target data processing system is already active and, if not, for setting the request into the active queue.